

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2947

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, DR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BALAGUER ON INSTITUTIONALIZATION

REF: SD 0925

1. DURING FEBRUARY 27 INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH, PRESIDENT BALAGUER RECALLED PROMISE THE MADE IN AUGUST 1974 INAUGURAL ADDRESS TO STRENGTHEN COUNTRY'S INSTITUTIONS. HE STATED, "THIS PROMISE REMAINS VALID, AND WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY THE OPPOSITION PARTIES AND DESIRED BY THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES." HE WARNED, HOWEVER,

THAT INSTITUTIONALIZATION DEPENDED ON WILLINGNESS OF "IMMENSE MAJORITY" OF CITIZENS TO ACCEPT DUTIES AS WELL AS DEMAND RIGHTS.

2. PRESIDENT NOTED THAT ACTS SUCH AS SEPTEMBER 1974 KIDWHI NAPPING UNDERMINED GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE COUNTRY.

3. COMMENT. THE PRESIDENT'S SILENCE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO PROHIBIT PRESIDENTIAL REELECTION AND ESTABLISH LIFE-TENURE FOR JUDGES AND ON THE ENTRY OF OPPOSITION PARTIES INTO GOVERNMENT WILL DISAPPOINT THOSE WHO HAD HOPED PRESIDENT
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WOULD BE MORE EXPLICIT ON HIS PLANS FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION

AND WILL PROBABLY PROVIDE GRIST FOR OPPOSITION CIRTICISM.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

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